

JC10 Rec'd PCT/PTO 19 MAR 2002

P22118.A01

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Mikio WATANABE et al.

Serial No : Not Yet Assigned (National Stage of PCT/JP00/006398)

Filed : Concurrently Herewith (International Filing Date 20 September 2000)

For : METHOD FOR PRODUCING CYCLIC LACTIC ACID OLIGOMER

#61A
RJA
8-28-02

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to calculation of the filing fees and the examination of the above-identified patent application on the merits, the Examiner is respectfully requested to amend the claims as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 3-6 and 8, as follows (a marked-up copy of the amendment is provided in the attached Appendix):

A1 3. (Amended) The method for producing a cyclic lactic acid oligomer according to claim 1, wherein said alkali metal compound is a compound of formula (2) wherein Y is -O- or -S-.